

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

~~[the]~~ each at least one gripping element ~~[each include]~~ including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of ~~[the]~~ said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and ~~[a plurality of slots]~~ at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening external thereto, each ~~[of the slots]~~ said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage ~~[one of]~~ the force transfer element[s] of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element ~~[simultaneously]~~ actuates ~~[the]~~ each at least one first section[s] to contact and move ~~[the]~~ each respective force transfer element[s] thereby actuating ~~[the]~~ each said at least one gripping element[s] along ~~[the guides]~~ respective said at least one guide.

2. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, further including a lock mechanism disposed on the first element operable to secure the first element and second element in a desired angular orientation.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[The gripping tool as recited in claim 1,]~~ An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

wherein the first element includes a pair of elements disposed on opposing sides of the second element.

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide.

4. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 3, wherein a spacer interconnects the elements to define a pocket such that a spring disposed within the pocket contacts the second element so that the second element is normally disposed in an open position.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[The gripping tool as recited in claim 1,]~~ An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

wherein the arm portion of the gripping elements further includes a pair of arms disposed at opposite ends of the body portion such that the gripping elements are substantially U-shaped;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide.

6. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the first element further includes a plurality of studs such that one stud is disposed between an adjacent pair of guides and extends parallel to the force transfer elements.

7. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 6, wherein each of the slots further includes a second section extending from the first section, such that one of the studs engages one of the second sections so that during relative angular movement between the first element and the second element the first and second openings remain concentrically aligned.

8. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 7, wherein the first and second sections are divergent.

9. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion and actuation portion circumferentially engage the workpiece.

10. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion and actuation portion are configured penannular.

11. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein the gripping portion includes a plurality of gripping elements.

12. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 3, wherein a lock mechanism is connected to the first element between the elements such that movement of the lock mechanism from a first operative position to a second operative position secures the first element and second element in a desired angular orientation.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[The gripping tool as recited in claim 1,]~~ An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide;

wherein the gripping elements performing one function may be replaced with gripping elements performing a different function.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[The gripping tool as recited in claim 1,]~~ An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide;

wherein the gripping elements score and cut.

15. (Currently Amended) [~~The gripping tool as recited in claim 1,~~] An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at

least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide;

wherein movement of the at least one gripping element is linear.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[The gripping tool recited in claim 1,]~~ An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement which generates movement of at least one gripping element;

the first element including a gripping portion configured to engage the workpiece including a first opening, at least one guide extending from the first opening and the at least one gripping element;

each at least one gripping element including a body portion adapted for engaging the workpiece, an arm portion configured to engage one of said at least one guide and a force transfer element contiguous with the arm portion;

the second element including an actuation portion having a second opening concentric with the first opening and at least one slot disposed adjacent the second opening, each said at least one slot having a first section configured to engage the force transfer element of one said at least one gripping element, such that movement of the second element with respect to the first element actuates each at least one first section to contact and move each respective force transfer element thereby actuating each said at least one gripping element along respective said at least one guide;

wherein movement of the at least one gripping element is curvilinear.

17. (Original) The gripping tool recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one guide includes a plurality of guides.

18. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein each at least one guide extends radially.

19. (Original) The gripping tool as recited in claim 1, wherein each at least one guide extends along a curvilinear path.

20. (Currently Amended) An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement;

the second element including an actuation portion having a plurality of slots, each of the slots including a first section and a second section wherein the first and second sections each define divergent paths;

the first element including a gripping portion having a plurality of gripping elements<sup>[i]</sup>, each gripping element having a force transfer element contiguous therewith, and at least one aligning element, where one of the aligning elements is disposed between a pair of gripping elements;

wherein one of the force transfer elements engages one first section and one of the aligning elements engages one second section such that movement of the second element relative to the first element results in the first sections contacting each of the aligning elements to actuate the gripping elements and the second sections contacting the aligning elements to maintain orientation of first element with respect to second element.

21. (Original) The gripping tool recited in claim 20, wherein the first element includes a first opening and the second element includes a second opening which are concentrically aligned during relative movement.

22. (Original) The gripping tool recited in claim 20, wherein a lock mechanism is disposed on the first element operative to secure the first element and second element in a desired angular orientation.

23. (Original) The gripping tool recited in claim 20, wherein the gripping portion and actuation portion circumferentially engage the workpiece.

24. (Original) The gripping tool recited in claim 20, wherein the gripping portion and actuation portion are configured penannular.

25. (Currently Amended) [~~The gripping tool as recited in claim 20,~~] An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement;

the second element including an actuation portion having a plurality of slots, each of the slots including a first section and a second section wherein the first and second sections each define divergent paths;

the first element including a gripping portion having a plurality of gripping elements, each gripping element having a force transfer element contiguous therewith, and at least one aligning element, where one of the aligning elements is disposed between a pair of gripping elements;

wherein the gripping elements performing one function may be replaced with gripping elements performing a different function;

wherein one of the force transfer elements engages one first section and one of the aligning elements engages one second section such that movement of the second element relative to the first element results in the first sections contacting each of the aligning elements to actuate the gripping elements and the second sections contacting the aligning elements to maintain orientation of first element with respect to second element.

26. (Currently Amended) [~~The gripping tool as recited in claim 20,~~] An adjustable gripping tool for engaging a workpiece to impart work thereto, the tool comprising:

a first element and a second element connected for relative angular movement;



the second element including an actuation portion having a plurality of slots, each of the slots including a first section and a second section wherein the first and second sections each define divergent paths;

the first element including a gripping portion having a plurality of gripping elements, each gripping element having a force transfer element contiguous therewith, and at least one aligning element, where one of the aligning elements is disposed between a pair of gripping elements;

wherein the gripping element can score and cut;

wherein one of the force transfer elements engages one first section and one of the aligning elements engages one second section such that movement of the second element relative to the first element results in the first sections contacting each of the aligning elements to actuate the gripping elements and the second sections contacting the aligning elements to maintain orientation of first element with respect to second element.

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